

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Estonian SSR)	REPORT	
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The locksmith workshop of the Industrial Enterprise of the Abja Rayon Consumers' Union (Promkombinat Abyaskogo raypotrebsoyuza) was located on Pärnu Road in Abja in a low wooden building. This and the adjacent buildings belonged to an old widow who lived with her daughters and some other relatives in the dwelling house. The promkombinat intended to move the locksmith shop to the carpenter shop in the Suka farmhouse in 1953.

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2. The building was old, without ventilation; the door had to be left open when the forge was operated, because the chimney was unable to provide a sufficient draft. Also, the bellows was not airtight; and, because of a faulty chimney, smoke came into the workshop. The walls were plastered, and the partitions and floor were of wood. During the winter, it was too cold to do precise mechanical work or to weld, because there was no stove in the workshop. A small iron stove was installed, but, because of the faulty chimney, all the smoke came into the room; so the stove was dismantled and sent to the sausage plant. When the electricity was cut off, the workshop was completely dark, because no kerosene or other lamps were provided by the promkombinat.

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Tools and machinery were old and in poor condition. The promkombinat did not provide new ones; the director said that Soviet people must be able to do a good job even with poor tools and machinery, because any fool could work with good, new tools. "You have to figure it out for yourself," was the usual answer of the director to someone who complained or pointed out the impossibility of doing a proper job with inadequate tools. One of the serious shortages throughout Estonia was of borax, necessary as a

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NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".

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flux in welding copper or cast iron.

3. The locksmith shop was principally engaged in repair work for the promkombinat's subsidiaries, although it also did jobs for other establishments or for private individuals. Some of the jobs performed by the shop were repairing machinery for the sausage plant, the lemonade plant, and the carpenter shop; sharpening the knives of the meat grinder for the sausage plant; installing water pipes at the lemonade plant; and making new pans and handbarrows for the bakery. For other customers, the shop made clasps and bolts for the hauling of logs, did welding jobs, repaired snow chains, repaired locks and made new locks and keys, and did repair jobs at the Abja hospital.

4. The locksmith shop employed two persons; a manager, who was a category seven locksmith,

5. The following is the legend to layout sketch of the locksmith shop. The numbers refer to pinpoints in the sketch.

a. Workshop.

1. Iron anvil on a wooden foundation.
2. Hand-operated forge.
3. Shelf which held blacksmith tools. The shelf was listed in the ledger as worth 100 rubles.
4. Board holding the production plan completion graph. For January through April 1953, the graph showed the following: January 110 percent, February 85 percent, March 50 percent, April 45 percent.
5. Wooden workbench covered with sheet iron and equipped with two vises. On the bench and in the drawers, were locksmith tools such as files, hammers, and chisels.
6. Shelf which held ten 400-gram packages of ammonia, two small burned-out electric motors, and some rubbish.
7. Old lathe with broken threads. The director of the promkombinat bought it in Tartu in 1952 for 2,000 rubles.
8. Hand drill attached to the wall, scarcely workable.
9. Wooden workbench covered with sheet iron and equipped with a broken parallel vise.
10. Electric motor. Since the motor was considered too powerful and wasteful for available current, the director ordered source to reduce its power from seven to five kilowatts. The motor had a driving belt which operated an iron shaft under the ceiling. The shaft had pulleys with driving belts to the lathe (15) and the grinding machine (11). Until the spring of 1953, the driving belts were without guards, but, at that time, the belts of the grinding machine and the electric motor were provided with improvised wooden guards. It was impossible to operate the lathe and grinding machines separately, because the shaft lacked the necessary free-running pulleys.
11. Grinding machine on an iron stand.
12. Iron shaft under the ceiling with three pulleys for the driving belts.
13. Switch, with handle, attached to the wall for operating the electric motor.
14. Electric meter and six fuses on the wall. There was a notice on a small board that operation of the motor from 0700 hours to 1000 hours and after 1800 hours was prohibited.
15. Old lathe with an automobile clutch in very poor condition. The official value was probably 8,000 rubles.

b. Tool closet.

16. 100 kilogram carbide barrel.
17. Shelf holding tools including drills, a micrometer, welding mask,

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wrenches, an old adjustable wrench, pipe thread cutter, pipe vises.

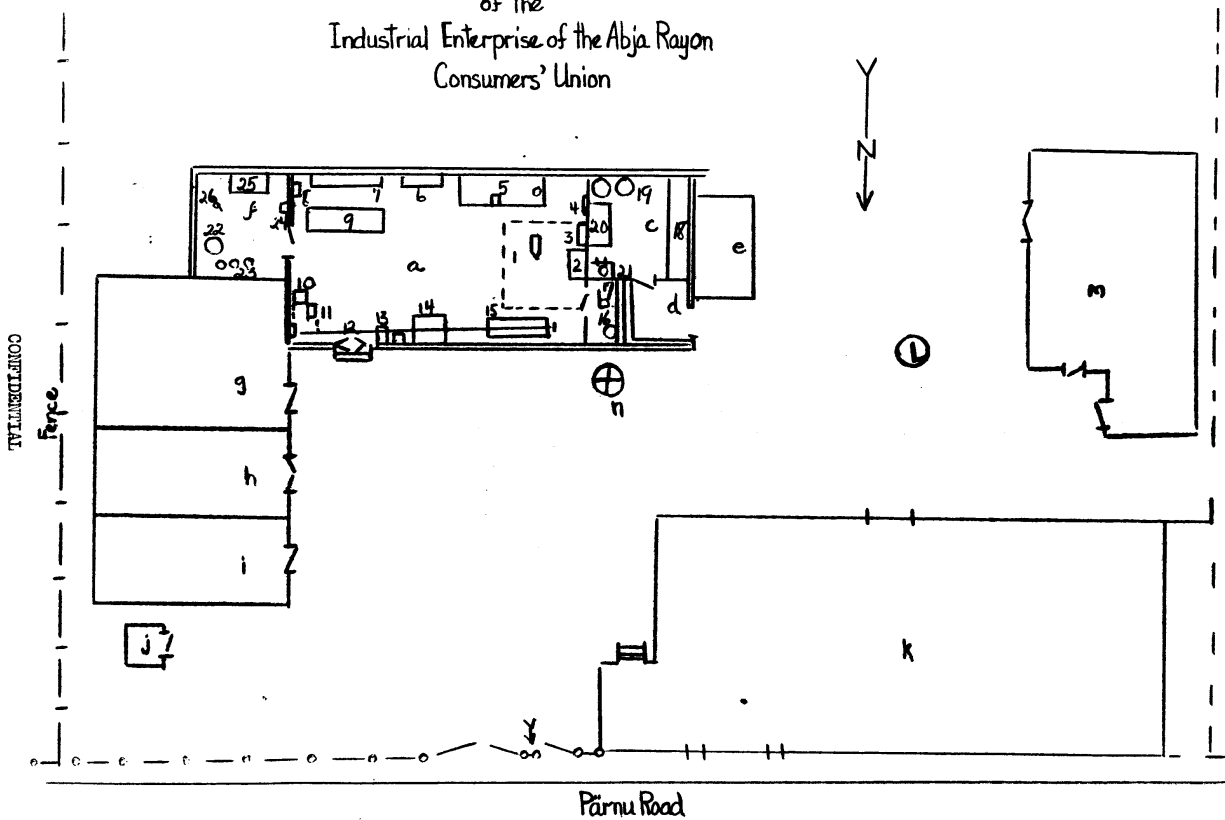
- c. Sauna, which belonged to the owner of the buildings but was used by the promkombinat for its workers.
- 18. A raised platform for steaming.
 - 19. Water barrels.
 - 20. Stove with round cobblestones for producing steam.
 - 21. Stove with a hot water kettle.
- d. Sauna dressing room with benches along the wall.
- e. Cellar beneath the sauna, used by the owner of the buildings.
- f. Welding room with a cement floor.
- 22. Welding equipment with autogenous hoses.
 - 23. Oxygen bottles.
 - 24. Small, empty wooden cupboard attached to the wall.
 - 25. Table covered with discarded scrap iron.
 - 26. Drainage hole in the floor.
- g. Shed, used by the owner.
- h. Storeroom of the workshop containing tools and materials such as sheet iron and lathe iron.
- i. Shed.
- j. Toilet.
- k. Dwelling house in which lived the owner of the buildings described in this report and several families.
- l. Hand-operated well.
- m. Sheds and stables used by the owner.
- n. Trestle, formerly used to hoop cartwheels.

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Locksmith Workshop
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of the

Industrial Enterprise of the Abja Rayon
Consumers' Union



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